Export of Granite

6285. SHRI SOM PAL:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 318 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state the steps Government propose to take to boost the export of Indian granite?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): General measures taken to boost exports are applicable to granite exports. These include directions to banks to increase availability of credit to export sectors; reduction in interest rate on rupee-credit, reduction in tariff level on import of machinery and rendering of marketing assistance by Indian Missions. Income on export of processed granite is also eligible for income tax benefits under section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act.

The Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council is also engaged in providing assistance under its various programmes to granite exporting units. Export of granite products also sought to be encouraged under the scheme of 100 per cent Export Oriented Units.

Tobacco Export

6286. SHRI V. RAJESWAR RAO:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4300 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25.4.94 and to state:

(a) how does Indian tobacco compete in the International Market; and

(b) steps being taken to boost export of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total world exports of unmanufactured tobacco and share of India, Brazil, USA and Zimbabwe in world trade are given below:—

(Qty. in '000 tons)

Countries	1993	1992	1991	1990
World	1670	1624	1613	1462
India	101.7	65.0	76.8	66.5
% Share	6.09	4.00	4.76	4 55
Brazil	240.0	241.0	190.0	188.0
% Share	14.07	14.84	11.78	12.86
U.S.A.	250.0	26.0	226.0	223. 0
% Share	14.37	10.07	14.01	15.25
Zimbabwe	180.86	151.0	136.0	122.0
% Share	10.83	9.30	8.43	8.34

(Source : USDA 7/93 and Tobacco Board).

(b) The steps taken to boost exports include:—

— sending trade delegations to identified markets of FCV tobacco and products.

— Participation in international exhibitions.

— Aggresive publicity in overseas markets.

— Pursuing with Governments through Joint Committee meeting etc. to import Indian tobacco products.

— Psomoting export oriented units for export of cigarettes and cut tobacco.

— Permitting foreign investment in cigarette industry mainly for export of cigarettes and value added products.

— Permitting cigarette manufacturers to import various items with a view to enable them to undertake product development.

— Undertaking packaging development for products like bidis, hookah tobacco paste with the help of Indian Institute of Packaging.

Indo-German Trade

6287. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the area and level of trade between India and Germany as on 1st April, 1994;

(b) whether Prime Minister's visit to Germany has boosted our trade with that country; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost trade with Germany?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Total trade between India and Germany for the period 1st April, 1993 to 31st January, 1994 stood at Rs. 8451 crores (approx.) The principal items of Indian exports to Germany comprises of leather and leather products, textile goods, drugs, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, carpets, agricultural products and precious stones. Indian imports consist mainly of project goods, machinery, machine tools, chemicals, iron & steel products, transport equipments, professional instruments and optical goods.

(b) The Prime Minister's visit, which led to high level official and business contacts between the two sides, would create a favourable climate for further boosting trade with Germany.

(c) Some steps that have been taken to expand trade include participation in international trade fairs in Germany, intensified exchanges of business delegations, increosed focus on thrust items and the promotional activities of the Indo-German Export Promotion (IGEP).

Protection to Indian Industry

6288. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Indian industries are receiving protection with reference to GATT and indigenous market;

(b) the details of Aggregate Measurement of Support which this secor has been enjoying;

(c) whether Indian industries have been the most protected sector in the world; and

(d) if so, the percentage of protection to this sector as compared to its value of production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Aggregate Measurement of Support is a concept applicable only to agriculture in the Uruguay Round and not to industry. India has bound tariffs on most raw materials, intermediates and capital goods at two rates, 25 per cent and 40 per cent. These have to be implemented within a period of